

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-4 and 12-15, if these claims are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-4 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner objects to the phrase "changing section" as being a "changing means". In response, Applicants amended the claims to delete the "for detecting" language from the claims. Accordingly, the "changing section" should not now be interpreted as a "changing means", rendering the claims definite. For this reason, withdrawal of the §112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-11 and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, and also the second paragraph, as being indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner again interprets the phrase "changing section" as "changing means" in the claims. The Examiner further notes that a shock condition is sensed by element 41 and the write and/or erase slice level(s) as set by element 22 in FIG. 3. Accordingly, the Examiner believes that there is no disclosure as to how any element (changing section) changes the write and/or erase slice level "for detecting" an external shock.

In response, Applicants amended the claims to delete the "for detecting" claim language, which renders the claims definite since no "means for" interpretation can occur.

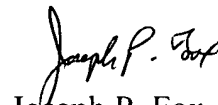
With respect to the §112 rejection under the first paragraph, Applicants amended the claims to clarify that the write and/or erase slice level is set such that the level “is used to detect” an external vibration or shock applied on the storage apparatus; or that a shock detection time constant is now defined as being a constant “that is used to detect” external vibration or shock. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now clear with respect to the relationship between the setting of the write and/or erase slice level and the detection of the external vibration or shock. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

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300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978